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TUDO SE ENCAIXANDO

SKYBOUND

THE WALKING DEAD™

KIRKMAN ADLARD GAUDIANO RATHBURN

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IMAGE COMICS APRESENTA

THE WALKING DEAD™

188: TUDO SE ENCAIXANDO

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ANTERIORMENTE:

No velório pela morte de Dwight, Rick é saudado como herói pela Governadora Milton... mas ele não se sente como um. Ele se reconcilia com Michonne, ainda esperando colocar a Comunidade no caminho de paz e contínuo progresso. Princesa sente que as coisas estão prestes a dar errado e decide partir, enquanto de volta ao leste Magna e Maggie envia uma equipe à Comunidade, incluindo Carl. Enquanto isso, Laura e Mercer começam uma aliança, mas quando Mercer tenta recrutar seus colegas guardas para um golpe, a trama deles é exposta por Lance.

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ELA VAI FICAR *MUITO* MAIS QUE DESAPONTADA QUANDO EU *TERMINAR.*

OLHE À SUA VOLTA, MERCER. VOCÊ *JÁ* ESTÁ ACABADO.

NÃO SEI NADA DISSO.

GEORGE?

HUM...

GEORGE?!

SERIA UMA LUTA DIVERTIDA DE ASSISTIR, MAS--

SIM, ***RENDER-SE*** É A ESCOLHA SÁBIA AQUI, VELHO AMIGO.

SÓ ESTOU *PREOCUPADA*... NÃO CONSIGO DEIXAR PARA LÁ.

SE ESTÁ TÃO PREOCUPADA, POR QUE NÃO FOI COM ELES?

EU NÃO PODIA DEIXAR ESSE CARINHA PARA TRÁS POR MUITO TEMPO.

ALÉM DISSO, AINDA TEM MUITO A SER FEITO.

OH, VOCÊ ACHA QUE NÃO POSSO DAR CONTA DESSE PESTINHA SOZINHO?

NÃO É QUE EU ACHE QUE NÃO É QUALIFICADA, BRIANNA. EU NÃO ***QUERO*** ESTAR LONGE DE HERSHEL POR TANTO TEMPO... ELES PODEM DEMORAR UM MÊS

EXATAMENTE.

ENTÃO AO INVÉS DE SENTAR NA BEIRA DA CADEIRA ESSE TEMPO TODO--RELAXE E CONFIE QUE AQUELES GAROTOS PODEM DAR CONTA DA TAREFA PARA QUAL VOCÊ OS ENVIOU.

PESADA É A COROA...

QUANDO ELA NÃO ***CONFIA*** EM SEU POVO.

NÃO CONFIO NAQUELA VADIA SORRIDENTE DA COMUNIDADE. É ***NELA*** EM QUEM NÃO CONFIO.

UGH...SÓ ESTOU ***PERDENDO TEMPO*** ENVIANDO ELES EM UMA MISSÃO DE RECONHECIMENTO?

SERÁ QUE DEVIA JUNTAR TODO NOSSO PESSOAL E MARCHAR COM UM ***EXÉRCITO*** ATÉ A COMUNIDADE AGORA?

NÃO SEI... MAS SEI QUE SE VOCÊ SENTE QUE DEVERIA...

ENTÃO DEVERIA.

...

AQUILO É O QUE PENSO QUE É?

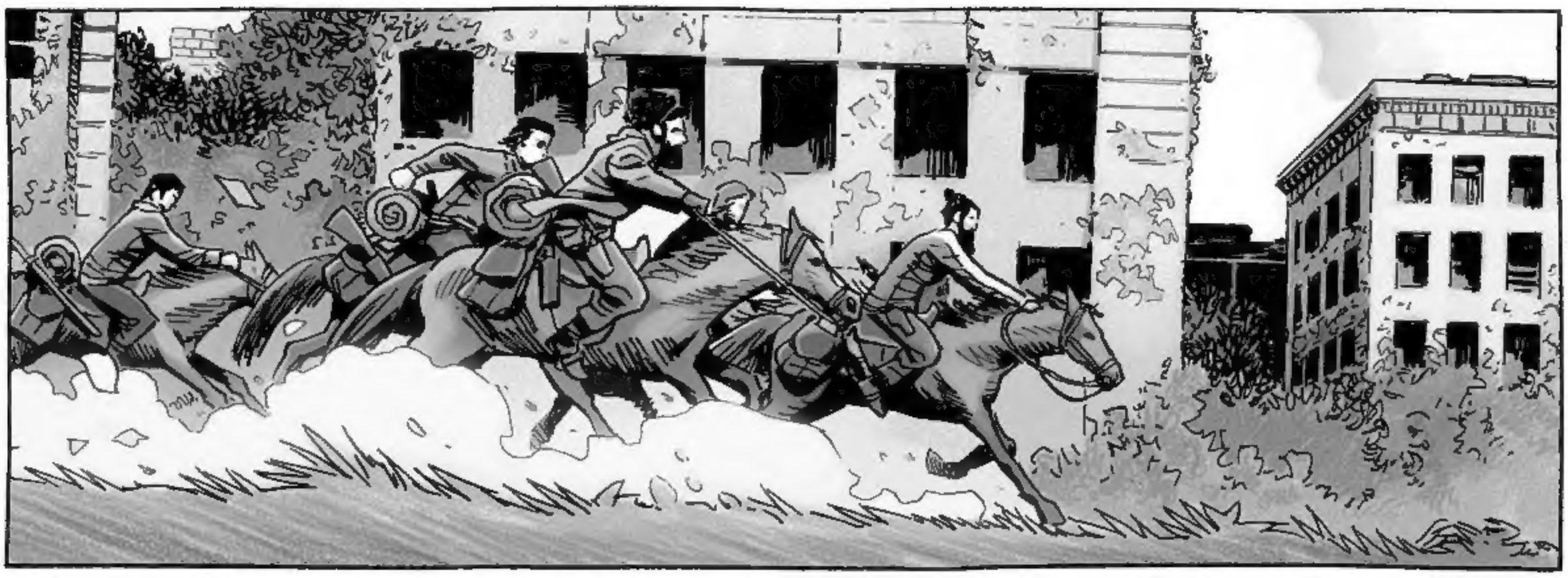
ACHO QUE É.

PRINCESA?!

O QUE ESTÁ FAZENDO AQUI FORA?!

MAS O Q--?!

ATRÁS DELA!



WHUMPP!

AAAAGH!

WHUDD!!

MERDA!

MERDA!

KRAK!

AH, MERDA!

O QUE NÓS *FAZE-MOS*?!

DEIXA COMIGO!

WHOM!

OH, DEUS! OH, DEUS!

CARL!

PULE!

OOF!

WHUMP!

SALVEM-SE-- VAO!

SWAASH!

UMA OVA!

SAÍMOS JUNTOS OU NÃO SAÍMOS!

É JUSTO.

CAVALGUEM NA FRENTE--VAMOS ALCANÇAR!

CRISTO-- TEM TANTOS!

RÁPIDO--TE- MOS QUE--

AH, MERDA!

SVAASH!

NÃO VAMOS NOS LIVRAR DELES TODOS À PÉ!

WHUMP!

WHUDD!

TENHO UM LUGAR PARA ES-CONDER--

SIGAM-ME!

PARA ONDE?

TENHO UM ESCONDERIJO --MAS NÃO PARA *CAVA-LOS!*

CAVALGUE ADIANTE E ENCONTRE UM BOM LUGAR PARA ESPERAR NA ESTRADA--VAMOS ALCANÇAR.

VAI!

FAÇA AQUELA COISA QUE SEU PESSOAL FAZ ONDE CAVALGAM SEUS CAVALOS E LEVAM OS MORTOS PARA LONGE.

VOCÊ SABE O QUE É-- É *DEMAIS!*

RÁPIDO-- ANTES QUE NOS VEJAM!

ESTOU TÃO ***DESAPONTADA*** COM VOCÊ.

DEPOIS DE TUDO QUE FIZEMOS POR VOCÊ, TE ACOLHEMOS, TE COLOCAMOS NUMA POSIÇÃO DE PODER, NÃO ACREDITO QUE SE ***VOLTOU*** CONTRA NÓS.

NÓS ***CONFIAMOS*** EM VOCÊ, MERCER.

ONDE ESTÁ SEU SENSO DE ***LEALDADE?***

VOCÊ DISSE ***LEALDADE?***

ONDE ESTÁ A PORRA DO ***SEU*** SENSO DE LEALDADE?

EU NUNCA FUI MAIS QUE UM ***GAROTO DE RECADOS*** GLORIFICADO PARA VOCÊ. EU ERA UMA BABÁ. FUI UM CHOFER. ERA SEU GAROTO DO CHICOTE.

VOCÊ ME COLOCA EM RISCO MAIS VEZES DO QUE POSSO ME LEMBRAR, E NUNCA PARECEU DAR A MÍNIMA PARA TODAS AS VEZES QUE QUASE ***MORRI*** POR VOCÊ.

VOCÊ NÃO É UMA LÍDER, É A PORRA DE UMA ASPIRANTE A ***RAINHA***, E NÃO VOU FICAR ESPERANDO ATÉ VOCÊ TENTAR INSTALAR SEU FILHO COM ***MERDA*** NO LUGAR DO ***CÉREBRO*** COMO SUBSTITUTO.

BEM...

PARECE QUE ESTÁ CERTO SOBRE ONDE É SEU ***LUGAR.***

O QUE ESTÁ HAVENDO? NÃO CONSEGUIU ACHAR A CHAVE INGLESA?

NÃO, HUM, É PIOR QUE ISSO.

AS COISAS MUDARAM NA COMUNIDADE. ESTAMOS SENDO CHAMADOS DE VOLTA. ESTE PROGRAMA ESTÁ SENDO DESATIVADO.

DESATIVADO? O QUE QUER DIZER COM DESATIVADO?

ESTE PROJETO É IMPORTANTE. ESTÁ DIZENDO QUE NÃO TEMOS ***PERMISSÃO*** DE CONTINUAR TRABALHANDO?

OLHA, CARA, EU NÃO SEI. NÃO RECEBI ORDENS DE PRENDER VOCÊ NEM NADA. TUDO QUE SEI É QUE MERCER ESTÁ NA CADEIA E A TENSÃO ESTÁ ALTA, E A GOVERNADORA MILTON QUER QUE TODOS SE REAGRUPEM DE VOLTA NA CIDADE.

ENTÃO SEJA O QUE FOR QUE ESTEJA FAZENDO AQUI NÃO É MAIS UMA PRIORIDADE. NÃO PODEMOS FICAR AQUI PARA PROTEGER VOCÊS. TEMOS QUE IR.

DIGO, TECNICAMENTE, SE FOR ***TÃO IMPORTANTE*** PARA VOCÊ, VOCÊ PODERIA FICAR, MAS NÃO TERIA NINGUÉM AQUI PARA PROTEGER VOCÊ.

NÃO ESTÁ CONSIDERANDO ISTO...

ESTÁ?

BEM, VAI SÓ ENTRANDO, POR QUE NÃO?

ISSO É SÉRIO.

O QUE ACONTECEU?

QUÃO SÉRIO?

PAMELA ACABOU DE JOGAR MERCER NA *CADEIA.*

OH, DEUS...

OH, DEUS, MESMO.

NÃO, VOCÊ NÃO ENTENDE. O POVO *JÁ* ESTÁ PRESTES A REVOLTAR. ELES NÃO CONFIAM NOS GUARDAS-- MAS ELES GOSTAVAM DE MERCER. AGORA QUE OS GUARDAS SE VOLTARAM CONTRA ELE--ISSO É MUITO, *MUITO* RUIM.

ELODIE ESTAVA ME DIZENDO QUE AS PESSOAS ESTÃO COMEÇANDO A TOMAR LADOS... AQUELES QUE APOIAM A GOVERNADORA E AQUELES QUE *NÃO.*

PODEMOS ESTAR NA IMINÊNCIA DO ESTOURO DE UMA *GUERRA* CIVIL DENTRO DA COMUNIDADE.

NÃO, NÃO, NÃO ...TEMOS QUE IMPEDIR ISTO.

ISSO É O QUE DWIGHT QUERIA. NO QUE ELE ESTAVA TRABALHANDO...

O QUE FIZ... FIZ PARA *IMPEDIR* ISTO.

SE ACONTECER *DE QUALQUER FORMA*...

O QUE EU FIZ?

DWIGHT ESTAVA ATIÇANDO O POVO-- MAS O ÓDIO DELES PELA GOVERNADORA MILTON E O POVO DELA... ESTÁ FERMENTANDO HÁ ***ANOS***.

DWIGHT SÓ ESTAVA ENCORAJANDO ISTO-- ATIÇANDO UM FOGO QUE JÁ ESTAVA QUEIMANDO.

QUERO EVITAR ISSO TANTO QUANTO VOCÊ...MAS ME PREOCUPO QUE SEJA APENAS QUESTÃO DE ***TEMPO***.

NÃO. SOMOS UM CATALIZADOR. NÓS VIEMOS--AS COISAS ESTÃO PIORANDO. TALVEZ HOUVESSE RESSENTIMENTO FERMENTANDO, MAS É NOSSA PRESENÇA QUE ESTÁ ACELERANDO AS COISAS.

NÃO ***HAVIA*** ALTERNATIVA ATÉ NÓS APARECERMOS. É ***ISSO*** O QUE É... É O QUE ESTÁ ACELERANDO AS COISAS.

NÃO PODEMOS SER NÓS A COISA QUE VAI DESTRUIR A COMUNIDADE. MAS SEM ***DWIGHT***...COMO ESTÁ ACONTECENDO TÃO RÁPIDO?

QUEM PODERIA...

ESPERE.

ONDE ESTÁ ***LAURA?***

MAS MERCER, CARA... NÃO POSSO ACREDITAR.

POIS É, NÉ?

QUAL É, GEORGE. SEJA DIRETO COMIGO...

SÓ ESTAMOS DANDO UM TEMPO, CERTO? NÓS VAMOS TIRAR O MERCER E VAMOS COMANDAR ESSA MERDA.

VOCÊ FAZ BEM EM MANTER SUA BOCA *FECHADA*.

O QUE FOI TUDO ISSO?

NADA. VEJO VOCÊS AMANHÃ.

QUEM DIABOS É VOCÊ?

SOU UMA AMIGA DO MERCER.

VOCÊ É?

ESTÃO COMEÇANDO A SE ESPALHAR. DEVE ESTAR LIMPO EM MENOS DE UMA HORA.

AARON E OS OUTROS DEVEM ESTAR GUIANDO ELES PARA LONGE. ISSO É BOM. SÓ UM PEQUENO DESVIO.

E QUANTO A VOCÊ? O QUE ESTÁ ACONTECENDO NA COMUNIDADE?

POR QUE ESTÁ AQUI?

AS COISAS ESTÃO FICANDO FEIAS LÁ. TEM MUITA BRIGA INTERNA ENTRE O POVO.

ENTÃO EU PARTI.

O QUE QUER DIZER? ESTÃO TODOS BEM --TEM PESSOAS FERIDAS?

COMO VOCÊ PODE APENAS SAIR?

COMO EU PODERIA ***FICAR?***

UMA COISA QUE APRENDI É QUE AS PESSOAS SÃO PERIGOSAS -- EU SABIA DISSO MESMO ANTES. QUANDO EU ME DEPAREI COM SEU PESSOAL EM PITTSBURGH, EU ESTAVA SOZINHA POR MUITO TEMPO.

NOSSA, EU ESTAVA ***DESESPERADA...*** MAS ESTAR NA COMUNIDADE...

ME LEMBROU. PESSOAS E EU... NÃO NOS MISTURAMOS. ESTOU MUITO MELHOR ***SOZINHA.***

NÃO ESTÁ NÃO. ***NINGUÉM ESTÁ.***

ACHA QUE É ALGUMA SOLITÁRIA DURONA? É UMA IDEIA LEGAL E TAL... MAS É UMA ***GRANDE MERDA.***

PORQUE NOS SALVOU ENTÃO? VOCÊ NÃO TINHA QUE VOLTAR. VOCÊ ARRISCOU SUA VIDA...POR NÓS. ISSO É O QUANTO SECRETAMENTE VOCÊ NÃO QUER ESTAR SOZINHA.

PESSOAS SÃO BOAS PARA VOCÊ... E VOCÊ É BOA PARA AS PESSOAS.

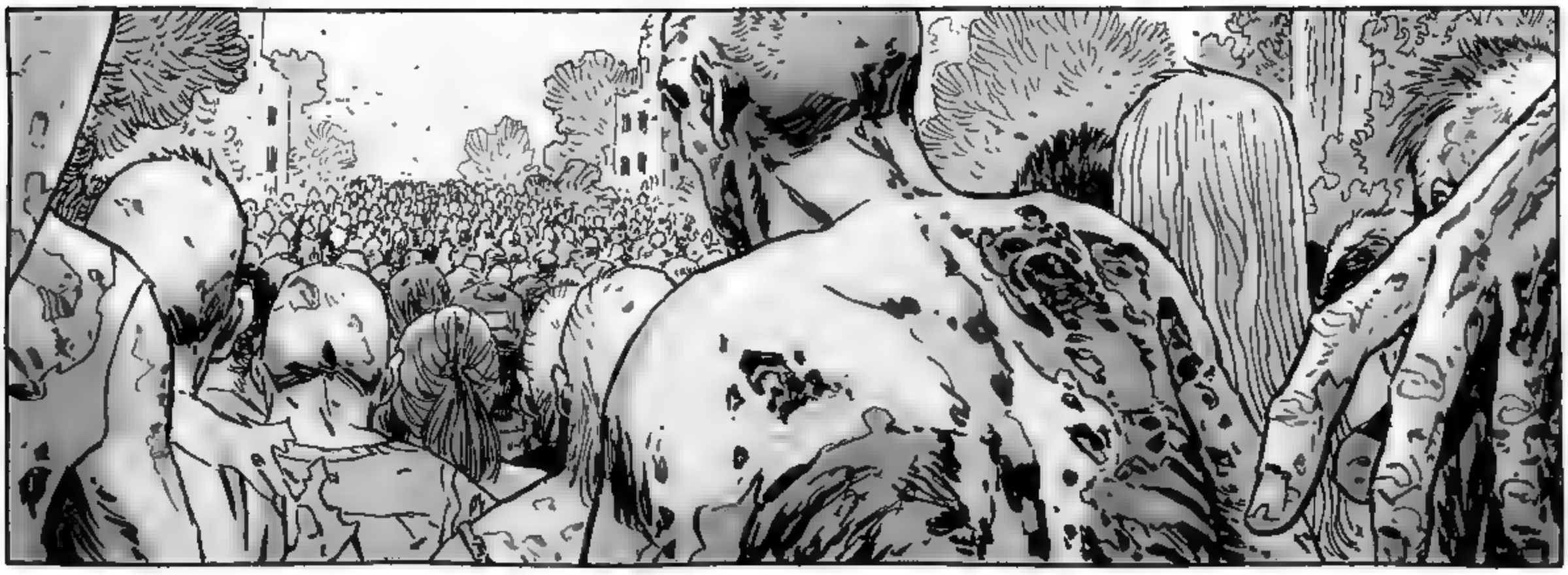
VOCÊ NÃO PRECISAVA XINGAR

ELES MEIO QUE JÁ SE ESPALHARAM-- VAMOS SEGUIR PARA PODERMOS ALCANÇAR AARON E O RESTO.

VOCÊ VEM CONOSCO?

OK.

TÁ.



JÁ FAZ UM TEMPO DESDE QUE LIDEI COM UM REBANHO *DESSE* TAMANHO...
FAZ MESMO O SANGUE PULSAR.
É--E EU JÁ TIVE O *BASTANTE* DISSO. VAMOS VOLTAR PRA ESTRADA-- ENCONTRAR COM JESUS E CARL.

SHUKK!

SABE, EU ESPERAVA PASSAR O *DIA* INTEIRO SEM MATAR DE FORMA SELVAGEM ALGUÉM QUE COSTUMAVA ESTAR VIVO.

NORMALMENTE, EU TENHO UM DIA LIVRE, E DEPOIS FOI UMA SEMANA *INTEIRA* QUE EU QUERIA. AGORA...ESTOU ANSIANDO POR UM MÊS INTEIRO SEM MATAR.

EU SOU SÓ *GANANCIOSA*, EU ACHO.

EU TENHO UM MÊS INTEIRO.

E UM ANO, NA VERDADE.

ESPERO CHEGARMOS AO PONTO ONDE EU TENHA O RESTO DE MINHA VIDA INTEIRA À MINHA FRENTE... E NÃO TENHA RESTADO MAIS NENHUMA ANDARILHO PARA MATAR.

MAS POR ENQUANTO...

VAMOS VOLTAR, E TERMINAR ISSO.

SHUKK!

SMASH!

NÃO GUARDARAM NENHUM PARA NÓS.

ACHEI QUE JÁ ESTIVESSEM CHEIOS.

SOBE AQUI, SEU HOMEM BONITO.

VAMOS-- VAMOS TENTAR COMPENSAR O TEMPO PERDIDO.

VOCÊS REDIRECIONARAM O REBANHO PARA LONGE DA COMUNIDADE?

DEU UM TRABALHÃO -- MAS ***SIM.***

O MELHOR QUE PUDEMOS FAZER FOI ENVIÁ-LO EM DIREÇÃO A FERROVIA ABANDONADA ONDE CONHECEMOS ELES.

ISSO DEVE SER LONGE O BASTANTE.

LETTER HACKS

WRITE TO US AT: WALKINGDEAD@SKYBOUND.COM

Am I surprised at the outpouring for Dwight? Sure. Absolutely. Seems like the only dry eye was Dwight's crusty left one. I feel like I have a pretty good pulse on fan favorites, and then you folks surprise the hell out of me. Did you really love him, or do you just love giving us grief? All that I know for sure is that his death didn't solve much, and the Commonwealth is plummeting on the "Places I'd Enjoy Living in the Apocalypse" power rankings. Let's squeeze out a couple eye drops in remembrance of the dead, one last time.

Dwight was always a favorite of mine, but I, like Sean, have been very surprised by the outrage over his death. I guess we're doing our jobs right, after all? I'm always sorry if a death in this story upsets you... but that is the price of admission here, to a certain extent. ANYWAY... let's go ahead and dive into the mail.

I can't wait until we get all the letters about Eugene...

We've lost so many people this year. Stephen Hawking, Jahseh "XXXTentacion" Onfroy, Steve Ditko, Aretha Franklin, Scott Wilson, Stan Lee, and Stephen Hillenburg are just a small fraction of the notable people that we've lost. Some were due to age, while others were in cold blood or an illness that took them too early. Needless to say, 2018 has been a shitty year. X had so much potential in his life before he was killed at age 20, and Hillenburg left a legacy of the series that is Spongebob Squarepants that gave me the interest in drawing at age 8 and later led to my fascination in comics by reading The Walking Dead by 9 and aspiring to become a comic artist by 11.

Just when I had the ever-so-shrinking hope for the rest of 2018 and looking forward to reading the newest issue of my #1 comic series of the past 7-8 years, another legendary figure in history is lost this year: Dwight. One of my absolute favourite characters, besides Andrea (whom we lost in 2017), is gone. Just like that.

Doesn't matter who your new favorite is. Dead in 2019. BET.

Heh.

To be honest, I'm very disappointed in the your development of Dwight for the past year and a half. I really hope there's some valid justification in his send off. I was hoping he'd be one of the few lucky characters that got to surpass 100 issues from his initial appearance. Hell, you were going to KILL Negan before Dwight! That's insane to think. I thought of Dwight as a really good friend of Rick's. His right hand man, if you will. Now he's just lost another friend. :(

I cannot believe you done this to me, Kirkman. I want to cry.

See you in 2019, unless 2018 takes me away too,
Andy Gasal
OG+ Walker
Vermont, USA

Well... he ALMOST lasted 100 issues...

KIRKMAN!

What is wrong with you? How the hell can you kill off the single best written character in your series like this?! The leader of the Militia, formerly a badass member of the Saviors... goes out with a bullet. Honestly, as much of a fan I am, this is first time where I don't care what happens next issue or next volume. You've truly killed my interest for the series, but I'll still be reading since I've stayed this long.

With that, I will also say this: PLEASE kill Michonne now. But first I want Laura to kill her kid, then her, just so she feels the pain. Some poetic justice of being shot in the head by Rick would be nice. She better die within the next 14 issues, by the time Issue 200 is out. Hell, bring back The Whisperers and put her head on a stick for all I care.

Goodbye Kirkman, and thanks for killing the person that got me into this damn comic,

Drake from Indiana

Like I said, strong feelings were evoked.

Kill Michonne? That's a crazy idea... but... maaaaaybe...

Hey Kirkman

I just wanted to talk about the Complexity of Carl and Sophia's relationship. Sophia and Carl truly grew up together, and they had a very close friendship as kids and still do. Just, you keep teasing in each issue their true feelings for each other.

I don't think it's meant to be teasing, just... it's complicated. You can't undervalue long-term relationships in this world, where trust often equals survival. Carl seems awfully sweet on Lydia for the moment, and I don't see that changing... unless we murk her next.

In issue 172, Sophia mentioned that she misses being with Carl, and He confesses that he misses being with her to, but he doesn't want to hurt Lydia. Then in issue 185 Sophia talks about how she wants to lose her virginity to someone, Carl tells her about a few guys that like her but she doesn't want them. Does she possibly want to lose it to the one boy she's cared about for over 4 years? When we see her with Josh, Carl's encouraging her to maybe bond with him, but she looked fairly uncomfortable in my opinion.

Really what I'm saying is, Are there still lingering feeling between them, or Is it just Sophia or Just Carl that still loves the other in that type of way? Their relationship, Friendship or Couple, will always be my favorite in the series because of how unique and developed the two of them are.

Have a wonderful Week/Weekend!

Jaime
Minnesota, USA

Ps. Thank you for putting Sophia back in the series as a sort of main character!

Was she ever out of the comic?

As to their relationship... whatever true feelings the two of them hold for each other, you're just going to have to wait and see. Although, I think it's clear that they are very close and care very deeply for each other.

Geezus fucking Christ! You fucks made Rick kill Dwight because Michonne put them all into a Kobayashi Maru. I'm not gonna lie, my interest in TWD was waning a bit and I decided to stick it out until this arc to see what developed only out of fierce loyalty to my favorite comic of all time. I'm a begging the guy at my lcs to let me smell TWD on Tuesdays generally. Enough bullshit, I love it and fuck you, Kirkman. You've done it again and again and again in this book. I say fuck you because you're the best at keeping me guessing and shocking the fuck outta me. I'm serious. Bravo. Glenn, Abe, Alpha, Dale, and Dwight all hit the gut and the brain like a brick of shit on a white sheet strapped to a wall. I'm a 39 year-old Mississippi man and I gasped like a shocked toddler first pissing on an electric fence again. The deaths are shocking. But, the tension between Rick and Michonne was pitch perfect and long overdue. This ain't no fairytale. Finding her daughter made her afraid again for the first time in ages. Fear is kryptonite to good people. Goddamn, if I don't see a hotly contested election coming up in the future. Well, as soon as someone assassinates Pamela. My money's on Mercer. He's gonna back Rick. Plot twist extra, Michonne's own blood stumps for Rick too. I may be carrying on in a flight of fancy, but fuck it. I can't see Rick and Michonne having a sword fight duel at high noon or another war. We're entering the political age of TWD. From Rapist Pig Governor to Rick Governor. Full fucking political circle. I doubt I'm even close to your plot. Oh yeah, great art. I'm not trying to downplay the art. It's just the plotting and writing overshadowed it this month. Both are always a feast. That plodding slow burn paid dividends.

P.S. I was saying fuck long before Batman Jr. came along. But, fuck it if he didn't force me to upgrade my fuck game.

Timothy Dunaway

Timothy—you win the Old School Letter Hack of the month non-award. This sort of well-meaning vulgarity used to fill the inbox, and I'm not one to get nostalgic because, again, I have no feelings—but good job by you.

Glad to hear the slow burn paid off for you. I know it can be frustrating at times, but y'know... these stories don't come together if the stories aren't put together just right.

Hello Mr. Kirkman,

Well, you've done it again. One of your best characters is dead. While it is a bummer, I think Dwight had a pretty solid arc and this was probably his time to go. However some of the pacing these past two volumes has really confused me and I hope you have some answers.

Since Michonne has arrived at the Commonwealth she's risen up to be a lawyer on a huge case, had the trial, been on vacation, come back. How long has it been? Why is Magna acting like Rick just left when it's probably been like a month? I still don't know what Oceanside is and why William from

the Kingdom was supposed to be important? Nit-picks aside, I've really enjoyed this Commonwealth arc so far and am excited to see where it goes. Keep up the good work!

P.S. It's been way too long since we've seen winter in this book (Volume 15)

Cal Gunderson
Cincinnati, OH

WINTER IS NOT COMING.

Michonne has been in the Commonwealth for many months at this point... it takes at least a week or so to get to, so there's a lot of time passing between pages here and there. Sorry it's not completely clear, but I feel like it would be tedious to stop and point out when time is passing.

Oceanside is the fishing community where Michonne served on the boat for a while when she was absent from this book after the time jump in issue #127.

Dear Letter Hacks

Wow! I don't think I realized how much I truly liked Dwight as a character until I saw him die.

That may be the most logical response we've received this month.

I'm a bit bummed about it honestly, but thankful that I've been able to go on this journey with Rick, Carl, Dwight, Robert & Charlie. As always, this title is consistently surprising and entertaining and a joy to read. It is simultaneously a wonderful and horrifying ride, and truly the highlight of my monthly comics reading experience.

Sincerely,
Ken Case
Planet Earth

P.S. I wonder how Negan is going to feel about this. My guess is he'll have some choice words.

I bet he will...

Dear TWD Crew,

Yet again, issue #186 was a hit! Two amazing covers and the story kept me on edge from start to finish!

So is it safe to assume there are two 'sides' in the Commonwealth? One that goes with the status quo and one possible faction that is potentially planning a coup? Elodie definitely seemed as surprised as I was to find out that the sheep-like citizens of the Commonwealth may not have the wool pulled over their eyes like we think they do! I look forward to seeing this develop in the future but, alas, it will be without poor old Dwighty-boy. But more on that in a second...

So is it possible that all this behind-the-scenes drama in the city is building to a conflict around the time issue #200 hits? It is an anniversary issue so I would be lying if I didn't say I was super anxious/excited/like a kid on Christmas morn with anticipation over what may be in store for that one! I can't believe there are only 13 more issues before the next major milestone in The Walking Dead universe!

#200 definitely would be a good place for something HUGE to happen. But so would #189, #190, #191, #192, #193, #194, #195, #196, #197, #198 and #199.

I think the point Sean is trying to make here... is that you may not have to wait until issue #200 for a major conflict to hit.

R.I.P. Dwight! I'm sad to see him go but loose cannons are at risk of unplanned explosions and Rick apparently thought that it was time for Dwight to be permanently benched...and while I did see it coming I didn't see it happening so suddenly. It definitely was a huge surprise to me!

Lastly...can I say I would have loved to see the scene where Mercer took out the rest of the walkers on his own? Please keep him around for a while...we need a good metal hatchet-wielding soldier to keep the others safe. That part of the issue reminded me of way back in the early days of the comic when Tyreese was trapped in the prison gym and no one thought he had a chance to survive...and yet he came out unscathed. Mercer quite simply is an awesomely cool character...and I can't wait to see more of him in the stories to come!

See, I can see how folks would get attached to Mercer. Like Andy Gasal. Andy Gasal probably has Mercer's pic as his screensaver already, and then when we kill him—Mercer, not Andy—he'll have to change it to someone else.

Anyway, thank you all again for yet another incredible issue and I am so excited for the next major turning point in the Commonwealth storyline! Whether it be war (via katana or cupcakes) I'm more than ready to be at my LCS on that upcoming Wednesday in the not too far off future to get my copies. #TWDFANFORLIFE

Sincerely,
Ryan N. Ray
Lexington, KY

Lexington, Kentucky represent!!

(facepalm)

Mr. Kirkman, et al-

Well, I guess you get what you ask for. I requested positive change without a war and you went and shot Dwight. I appreciate what Mr. Mackiewicz said about him never seeming happy and his death being merciful. I am sad to see him go and not get a chance at some kind of true reconciliation, but I think Mr. Mackiewicz's assessment was spot on.

That said, Mr. Kirkman, will you PLEASE give me some insight into why Rick made the decision he did to shoot Dwight? It seemed almost out of character for him. Rick certainly has not hesitated to do what he has felt was right, even if it was difficult or unpopular, but he has always struck me as someone who has consistently acted deliberately and thoughtfully. This decision seemed so quick--no standoff, no attempt to talk Dwight down or defuse the situation. In fact, he doesn't say a WORD from the moment Pam enters the room. The look on his face the whole time is almost one of shock, right up to the point where he pulls the trigger (that whole scene is incredibly illustrated, as usual, by Mr. Adlard). What on earth would cause Rick to make such a snap judgment, especially about someone whose opinion he respected at least enough to give him pause?

Bewildered in Rochester, NY,
Jason

Dwight had Rick at gunpoint recently over the death of Sherry. So he knew him to be a loose cannon who had been dealing with a lot recently. But he was working through it. He'd been urging Rick to basically back him against the Commonwealth in a bid to take over. Rick knew his goals. And he had Governor Milton at gunpoint... he knew Dwight could pull the trigger at any moment.

Michonne and Rick in a room with Dwight who just killed Governor Milton? Rick doesn't know if he or Michonne get out of the Commonwealth alive... and he definitely knows that leads to a war of some kind. MANY, MANY people die... unless he kills Dwight.

Rick had no choice. That's why he had to act so quickly.

Whooooo-Hooooo!

It's about fucking time! You go Rick! So long, Dwight, you piece of shit! Don't let the door to comic book hell hit you in the ass on the way in (or do let it hit you. Who cares?)

RIP Abraham.

Rob Shelor
Roanoke VA

Rob gets it.

Oh yeah, and I hope everyone involved in the making of the Walking Dead (comics, TV, etc.) has a wonderful holiday season.

Charlie, you rock!

Charlie DOES rock!

Dear Mr. Kirkman and team,

I hope Dwight can rest peacefully now. I always admired his ability AND reluctance to lead. I am feeling sorry for Laura. The dynamic she shared with him has been a favorite part of this book recently. As for Rick, simply shocked. Can't recall him ever having to kill one of his own. I'm glad he sees the new world as something to shape, not be taken over. I am scared for Michonne, and am very much enjoying Pamela's true turn as the villain. More Mercer! Wonderful issue. Keep it coming.

David Martz
Pottstown, PA

Laura kept Dwight in check before, but now that she's without him, sure looks like she's carrying on his legacy.

We will see you next month, when Eugene and Stephanie find themselves in one hell of a predicament.

Also, if you like fun, pop action comics, ASSASSIN NATION debuts in March! You mix the brilliance of two-time Eisner winner Erica Henderson (*The Unbeatable Squirrel Girl*) with the dementedness of Kyle Starks (*Rick & Morty, Sexcastle*) and you get 20 top assassins gathered in the same building to protect the World's Former Greatest Hitman. That's a lot of egos in one place, and guns will go off! Check out this irresistible preview on the following pages! Our first new series of the year may be our most fun yet!

-Sean Mackiewicz

I am extremely excited for you all to get a look at ASSASSIN NATION! It's a great book by a great team. You'll love it!

See you all back here next month!

-Robert Kirkman